

**Cauchy sequence**, a concept only defined on a metric space  $(X, d)$ . A sequence  $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is **Cauchy** if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\forall m, n \geq N \quad d(x_m, x_n) < \varepsilon$ .

**Fact.** Every convergent sequence is Cauchy. The proof requires  $\Delta$ -inequality. The converse may not be true, that is,  $\exists$  metric space in which a Cauchy sequence may not converge in the space.

**Example.**  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$ , then any distinct sequence in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  converging to  $\bar{0}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$  but obviously its limit  $\bar{0} \notin \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\bar{0}\}$

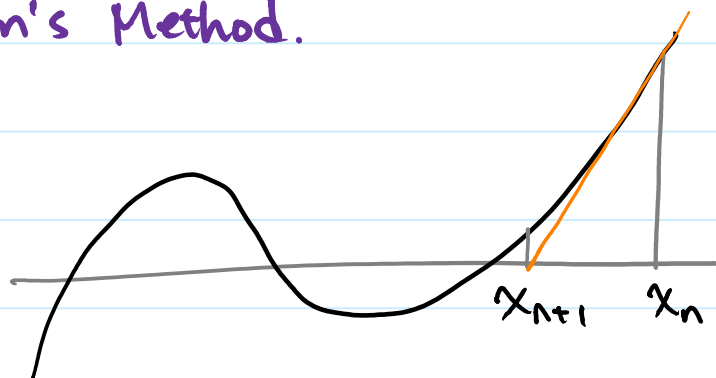
It is clear that such a "bad" can be formed by taking away limits of sequences.

**Definition.** A metric space is **complete** if every Cauchy sequence converges in it

**Example.** Think about how  $\mathbb{R}$  is constructed from  $\mathbb{Q}$ . One method is by equivalence classes of Cauchy sequences in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . This really is adding limits of Cauchy sequences to  $\mathbb{Q}$  and form  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Question.** Why is Cauchy sequence important?  
 Let us think about when it was used.

**Newton's Method.**



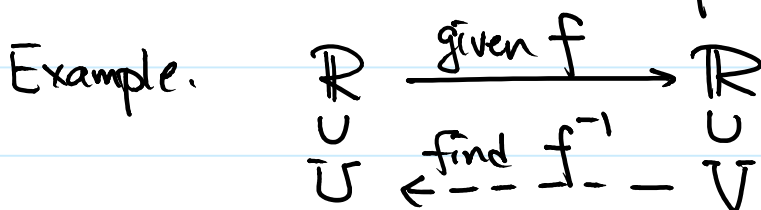
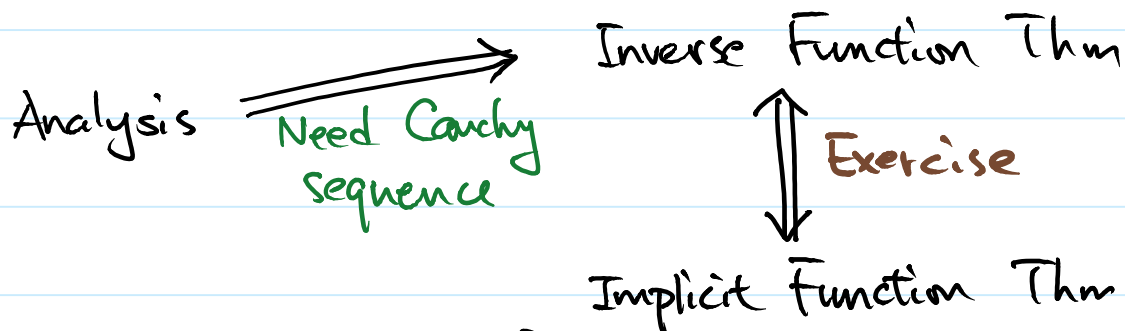
Pick any  $x_1$  and obtain  $x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots$  by  

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

If  $f'$  is good enough, the sequence  $(x_n)$  converges and the limit is a root of  $f$ .

Actually, the convergence is guaranteed by that  $(x_n)$  is **Cauchy**.

**Inverse / Implicit** we know that



Main Idea. To define  $f^{-1}$  on  $V$ ,

given  $y \in V$ , we need  $x \in U$ ,  $f(x) = y$

Same as solving  $F(x) = f(x) - y = 0$

The proof involves technique similar to Newton's method.

Qn. Given a complete metric space  $X$  and  $Y \subset X$ .

We know that  $Y$  may not be complete,

clearly,  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is an example.

Any condition on  $Y$  will be enough?

Proposition. Given complete metric space  $X$ .

$Y \subset X$  is complete  $\Leftrightarrow Y$  is closed.

Note that on a metric space, it is 1<sup>st</sup> countable.

So  $x \in \overline{Y} \Leftrightarrow \exists$  sequence  $(y_n)$  in  $Y$  such that  $y_n \rightarrow x$ .

" $\Leftarrow$ " Given a Cauchy sequence  $(y_n)$  in  $Y$ , then

it is Cauchy in  $X$  (same metric)

So,  $\exists x \in X$   $y_n \rightarrow x$  ( $X$  is complete)

Such convergence implies  $x \in \overline{Y}$

Thus  $x \in Y$  ( $Y$  is closed, i.e.,  $Y = \overline{Y}$ )

" $\Rightarrow$ " Let  $x \in \overline{Y}$ ,  $\exists y_n \in Y$ ,  $y_n \rightarrow x$  in  $X$  (metric)

$(y_n)$  is Cauchy in  $X$ , so in  $Y$

$\exists y \in Y$  where  $y_n \rightarrow y$  ( $Y$  is complete)

By uniqueness,  $y = x$  ( $X$  is Hausdorff)  $\square$

**Remark.** Cauchy sequence has been used in analysis besides Newton's method and Inverse Function Theorem.

**Qu.** How do you prove Intermediate Value Thm? You may have used a technique of dividing the interval into a half repeated and then apply the Nested Interval Theorem.

**Diameter** On a metric space  $(X, d)$ ,  $A \subset X$   

$$\text{diam}(A) = \sup \{ d(a_1, a_2) : a_1, a_2 \in A \}$$



**Cantor Intersection Theorem** Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space;  $\emptyset \neq F_n \subset X$ ;

- \* each  $F_n$  is closed,
- \*  $F_{n+1} \subset F_n$ , i.e., nested
- \*  $\text{diam}(F_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

Then  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$  is a singleton Existence  
Uniqueness

We need to find an element  $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$ , i.e.,  $x \in F_n \forall n=1, 2, \dots$ . Naturally, hope to get in by Cauchy Sequence.

Proof. Just pick  $x_n \in F_n$  for each  $n$

Then for each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $1 \leq p \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$x_{n+p} \in F_{n+p} \subset F_n \text{ and } x_n \in F_n$$

$$\therefore d(x_n, x_{n+p}) \leq \text{diam}(F_n) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

The sequence  $(x_n)$  is Cauchy.

$\exists x \in X$  such that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  ( $X$  is complete)

Why  $x \in F_n \forall n$ ?

The sequence  $(x_n, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}, \dots, \dots)$  in  $F_n$  also converges to  $x$ , by definition

$$\therefore x \in \overline{F_n} = F_n \text{ (it is closed)}$$

Finally,  $\text{diam}(F_n) \rightarrow 0$ , so there cannot be two distinct elements in  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$ .

$$\text{Thus, } \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n = \{x\}. \quad \square$$

**Remark.** Cauchy sequences are often indirectly used in analysis.

**Contraction Mapping.** A mapping  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$  is a contraction mapping if  $\exists$  constant  $0 < \alpha < 1$  such that for all  $x_1, x_2 \in X$

$$d(\varphi(x_1), \varphi(x_2)) < \alpha d(x_1, x_2)$$

**Banach Fixed Point Theorem** A contraction mapping on a complete metric space always has a fixed point, i.e.,  $x_0 \in X$  with  $\varphi(x_0) = x_0$ .

## Examples.

In Newton's Method, to solve  $f(x)=0$ , we have actually created  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where

$$\varphi(x) = x - \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}$$

It is a contraction mapping if  $f$  satisfies certain reasonable conditions.

Similarly, to solve for a solution  $y(x)$  of an ODE, we create  $\varphi: \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  where  $\mathcal{Y}$  is a function space; and  $\varphi$  is a contraction mapping such that its fixed point is a solution of the ODE.

Proof. Pick  $x_1 \in X$ , let  $x_{n+1} = \varphi(x_n)$

$$d(x_{n+p}, x_n) \leq d(x_{n+p}, x_{n+p-1}) + d(x_{n+p-1}, x_{n+p-2}) + \dots + \dots + d(x_2, x_1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Note that } d(x_m, x_{m-1}) &= d(\varphi(x_{m-1}), \varphi(x_{m-2})) \\ &< \alpha \cdot d(x_{m-1}, x_{m-2}) < \alpha^{m-2} d(x_2, x_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus, } d(x_{n+p}, x_n) &< \alpha^{n+p-2} d(x_2, x_1) + \dots + d(x_2, x_1) \\ &= (\alpha^{n+p-2} + \alpha^{n+p-3} + \dots + \alpha + 1) d(x_2, x_1) \\ &< \alpha^{n+p-1} \cdot d(x_2, x_1) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \alpha < 1 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore (x_n)$  is Cauchy,  $x_n \rightarrow x \in Y \subset X$

To finish the proof, we need

$$\text{As } x_n \rightarrow x, \quad \varphi(x_n) \rightarrow \varphi(x)$$

This requires **continuity** of  $\varphi$ .

**Exercise.** Every contraction mapping is continuous.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Thus,} & \varphi(x_n) & \longrightarrow \varphi(x) \\ & \parallel & \\ & x_{n+1} & \longrightarrow x \end{array}$$

By uniqueness,  $\varphi(x) = x$ .

□